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(54) Title: STUDY AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CELLULAR FUNCTIONS OF RECEPTOR PROTEIN TYROSINE KINASES

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to methods of evaluating the specific function of a receptor protein tyrosine kinase in cells by activating the receptor in a ligand independent fashion. In addition, the invention includes methods of identifying compounds that modulate receptor protein tyrosine kinase function. The invention also relates to a method of preventing or treating an abnormal condition caused by an aberration in the function of the C-RET receptor, and specifically to the treatment and prevention of neuro-degenerative disorders by administering a compound that modulates the function of the C-RET receptor.